

MINUTE MEN.

DELLA M. GASKILL.

Behold, now is the accepted time, to-day is the day of salvation. A great revival in the church means a great battle to be fought and a victory to be won. We can not advance against the ranks of the enemy without opposition. Their ranks are guarded, the enemy is on the alert. "Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." We need a consecrated army, and to be equipped for the warfare. We need companies of "Minute Men," who are ready to go into the work at any time and any where. O comrades, do we fully realize what it is for souls to be lost? There is a great responsibility resting upon us. Jesus saved others, himself he could not save.

Let us enter the field in the strength of the Lord, taking the sword of the spirit and the shield of faith, clad with the armor of God.

Zanesville, Ind.

"LOOKING UNTO JESUS."

BY C. H. BALSBAUGH.

"The altar sanctifies the gift," and not *vice versa*. Truth is as illimitable as God, while the fragments of it which come within our view, are often so misrelated and exaggerated, as to make a larger and more consistent view seem like daring innovation and error. The majority of us think what we have always believed must necessarily be right. Not a few who claim to be decidedly progressive, are by no means clear of this infirmity. It requires a great baptism of the Holy Ghost to liberate us from hereditary tendencies, and bias of early teaching. To see "the truth as it is in Jesus," "our life must be hid with Christ in God." Col. 3: 3. This demands an antecedent death, so radical that we do not hesitate to nominate it a birth of God in which our whole being is placed under Divine possession and control. We see as God sees. We are in sympathy with his purpose and methods. We are above bishops and councils and human creeds for our conceptions of truth. And the wider our horizon, and the higher our zenith, the less do we glory in ourselves, and the more we magnify the grace of Christ, and the more penetrating and reliable our discernment of character. We learn to judge all things, while we are unaffected by all human judgment. I Cor. 2: 15.

You cannot admit that your views of the church and the Christian life, are not wholly derived from a prayerful study of the holy oracles. Millions make this

claim whose faith and practice you utterly repudiate. They are as intelligent and sincere as you and I. How many are the sermons preached, the essays and books written, conventions held, in which the word of God is learnedly and powerfully handled to defend and establish human opinions. The truth is distorted by being disintegrated and ill related. It is the unity of God in his manifold revelations that is to give unity of apprehension and faith. We have not yet outgrown the misleading and bewildering limitations of II Cor. 10: 12. The great lesson of our caption is not yet learned: "Looking unto Jesus." Many a would-be leader would do well to study it afresh. There is too much optical diversion in us all. The exaltation of ritual and ecclesiasticism over character is a pitiable and most pernicious travesty of Christianity. It is the offensive, reeking ulcer of the church to-day. To be holy as God is holy is the supreme purpose and issue of the incarnation. Looking unto Jesus invariably culminates in II Cor. 3: 18. Such a soul will not fail in the wisdom that sanctifies all the manifestations and revelations of life. James 3: 17. Where God rules, the centripetal and centrifugal forces are held in perfect equipoise. We are Christ-centered and Christ-controlled. Our orbit is divinely prescribed and divinely impelled.

CHRISTIANITY vs. MILITARISM.

The following editorial appeared in the Martinsburg *Weekly Herald*, suggested by the action of the Johnstown Convention, in reference to "Boys Brigades."

From individuals and from organized religious bodies is heard the stamp of disapproval of the introduction into the Christian church of that worldly feature, known as the "Boy's Brigade." Among the religious bodies which places the seal of condemnation upon this movement, was the Brethren church, and in its recent convention in Johnstown it spoke out clearly against militarism in the church, with an emphatic resolution entirely worthy of its source. The Women's Christian Temperance Union has also in strong terms of disapproval protested against training up the youth in a military spirit.

The "Boys Brigade," is known by various names in different denominations, but the main feature, that of military drill is the same in all organizations.

The church is a religious body founded on the eternal truth of God's revealed word, and the teachings of His Son, the world's Redeemer, who taught that there should be peace on earth. If the church is working for the purpose of spreading

Christianity, and the coming of the Redeemer's kingdom of peace, then why is it that she encourages and fosters a military spirit, and organizes these drill societies of whatsoever name they may have? Hundreds, yea, a large army of young men are members of these organizations in the various religious bodies, who are becoming as well drilled as our Nation's soldiers. It is alleged, by the champions of this unchristian movement, that these "brigades," "guards," "soldiers," etc., are for the purpose of training young men in the way of the Bible. In their zeal to introduce worldliness into the church, they have overlooked two important points. It will lead the young men farther and faster from the path of vital Godliness, and in the end be the cause of evil and most deplorable results. Over and above all it is a perversion of divine precepts, and it is not of Protestant origin. It belongs to the Jesuits.

God's Kingdom advanced and the world won for Christ by military discipline and drill? What a lie to the Gospel of peace to all men! What a departure from the vital truth of Christianity!

If the various organizations, which claim to represent the church of the living God, ever expect to reclaim the world for righteousness, all compromise with worldliness must be forever dropped. The church should receive no suggestion as to what will make her popular with the world, but she should strive for a higher, vital, spiritual ideal, which would draw all men unto her.

Christianity and the spirit of militarism, and the pump and parade thereunto belonging can never go hand and hand to save the world. Its tendency is in accordance with the creed of man, and it may answer the requirements of the modern standard of Christianity, but it is not God's way, and is not taught in his Bible.

THE idea that success belongs to the side that wins the day is born of the same spirit that made Frederick the Great say, "God is on the side of the heaviest battalions." It is the glory of true success that it has often been picked up for dead on the field, and it is often that the history of heroism is that its bosom has been riddled with bullets and torn with shell, and until the smoke of the battle drifted away none knew its name.—F. W. Gunsaulus, D. D.

BEFORE the devil can get a man to steal he has to first persuade him that he has a good motive for doing it.

TRUTH always travels in the middle of road no matter whom it meets.